

before. Power may have been given, and yet not a power that works the effect without the ordinary procedure of the understanding and the heart; but works the effect by or through the ordinary procedure—making it valid now, when before it was impotent, towards the production of a right belief or a right sensibility or a right purpose.

32. The conclusion which we have now come to is in perfect harmony with the respective functions of the spirit and of the word. The one reveals truth to the mind—but it is only that truth and no other which is enveloped in the Bible. He opens the understanding—but it is to understand the Scriptures. The interposition of the Holy Spirit between a man and his Bible, no more makes palpable to him any other truths or characters than those which be literally graven there—than the interposition of the telescope between him and some distant shore, makes palpable other objects or other characters of scenery than those which be actually graven upon the landscape. And just as the telescope does not supersede the intense observations by the eye which looks through it over a field of nature, nay would not supersede the ordinary mathematics by which you might become acquainted with the positions and the bearings of its various objects—so neither does the light that cometh from the upper sanctuary over the field of revelation supersede the earnest direction of the mental eye towards it, or the busiest use of all those scientific expedients by which we obtain a more critical or a more systematic knowledge of its contents. It were an important speculation that we saw—but better